The Pharmacy at the Central *Vaidyasala* has been for good and sufficient reasons abolished some time ago, and consequently, it will not be possible for the Government to supply medicines from the Central Hospital to the outlying dispensaries.

71. Medical Department.

MR. C. PERCY BHANU (*Member, Nominated*) said that it was highly gratifying to note that the Administrative Board, Medical Services, was discharging its functions satisfactorily. But there were one or two matters which required the special attention of the Board. The first was that hygiene and sanitation should be compulsorily taught in Vernacular Middle and High Schools for boys. Students passing out of Class VII were ignorant of the elementary rules of health and cleanliness. It was probably due to the absence of text-books in the vernaculars and also of proper teachers. The defects should be remedied by prescribing a minimum number of lectures on the subject every year and testing the knowledge of students in the matter by setting a few questions on the subject at the examinations. Similarly, lessons on infant welfare and maternity should be taught in Vernacular Middle and English High Schools for girls. The lessons could be taught either by means of lectures or by circulation of printed pamphlets.

Secondly, lectures on epidemic diseases, their causes and prevention, should be arranged to be delivered in rural parts. The diseases could be controlled in towns where there were Municipal Councils or hospitals easily accessible. The rural areas did not possess such advantages and therefore lectures would be most beneficial to them. The lectures should be delivered on festive occasions when people would be assembling in large numbers. Leaflets also should be freely circulated. It would be advisable if the Tahsildars could be asked to arrange such health propaganda.

An English Medical School in Travancore was a necessity. There was a Medical School in Trivandrum some years ago and persons trained there were employed in different places. In the absence of such a school, students were obliged to go abroad and they often found it difficult to get admission to the medical schools there. As regards the cost of running a medical school, the member said that fees adequate to cover the expenditure might be charged.

Many people in the rural parts of the State depended on Mission hospitals and private institutions for medical treatment, but those institutions received little or no encouragement. It was, therefore, necessary to give adequate grants-in-aid to efficient and deserving Mission and other private hospitals.

Quack doctors were on the increase in the State. Their treatment was more dangerous than the diseases themselves. They had no scientific knowledge but prescribed on the strength of advertisements published in medical catalogues. Some of those doctors even ventured to perform surgical operations resulting in danger to the patients. In view to remove the evil, medical practitioners should be tested and given licenses.

Tuberculosis was rapidly on the increase in the State. Consumptive patients were advised by doctors to go to Madanapalli for treatment, while in Travancore there were several places which could be rendered suitable for such treatment. The member therefore suggested the opening of a Tuberculosis Hospital in Travancore.

Leprosy was another common disease in Travancore. There were several lepers engaged in different professions and even employed in the Government service. To prevent contagion from them, a Leprosy Regulation should be passed.

Lastly, the member prayed for the establishment of one or two more hospitals for women.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Dr. Percy Bhanu, you have taken up a large number of subjects in your representation. First of all, you dealt with the teaching of hygiene in the Vernacular Middle and High Schools. Hygiene is already being taught, as you know, in elementary schools. Whether it should be taught in the Vernacular High Schools is a question which must wait until a settlement is arrived at on the subject of the amalgamation of the English Middle Schools and the Vernacular Middle Schools.

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Then you dealt with the question of instruction in infant welfare and maternity matters in Girls' Schools. The difficulty is that there are no qualified teachers to instruct girls on this subject ; besides, it cannot be made general in all schools to children of all ages. When the Government is in a position to provide an establishment for the purpose and find that a general need has arisen for such a purpose, the question will be taken up.

You dealt next with the subject of epidemics and you advocated the means of stemming them by a larger knowledge of matters of public health to be inculcated by lectures in purely rural areas. There again, you are faced with the difficulty of finding the necessary staff to lecture. But, if I may tender a word of advice to the large body of private practitioners in Travancore, they will be doing the State a good service and assisting the Government considerably if they will organise private lectures in various parts of Travancore.

You dealt with the question of an English Medical School in Travancore. There used to be one here for a number of years, and it turned out medical practitioners who have done good and faithful service to the State. The trouble about a medical school in Travancore is that it must of necessity be a very small institution with limited possibilities both on its instructional side and on its clinical side. Besides, there is no dearth of medical practitioners in Travancore who are well trained in institutions outside Travancore, both in British India and outside, and there is a supply of efficient men. There is therefore no need for us to have an institution here now.

You referred to the subject of grants-in-aid to Mission hospitals and private institutions. This is already being done on a fairly large scale.

As regards registration of medical practitioners, that question has already engaged the attention of the Administrative Board, Medical Services, and it is now being considered on its legislative side by our legal advisers, and I hope that it will not be long before we have a system of medical registration. I agree with you that it is a necessary measure of reform.

You referred to the need for a Tuberculosis Hospital. This also is engaging the attention of the Government. A site has been tentatively chosen and as soon as all preliminary arrangements are made, I hope that the Administrative Board will come before the Government with specific proposals. You may rest assured that such proposals will receive sympathetic consideration. Meanwhile, the dispensary treatment of tuberculosis has already been begun.

You propose the need for a Leprosy Regulation. May I draw your attention to Regulation III of 1077 which deals with the question of leprosy.

As regards more hospitals for women, I have yet to learn that the women of Travancore keep away from the general hospitals and dispensaries. There are a few women's hospitals already. Before long, I hope that the Women's Medical Service will come into being, and then I am convinced that they will take up and deal adequately with the question of sufficient medical aid for the requirements of the women of Travancore.

72. Need for a scheme for promotion of public health in the State with special reference to Educational Institutions, Municipalities, etc.

MR. KOSHY PALAKUNNATTU (*Member, Nominated*) said that health was the most important factor in the prosperity of a people. Diseases were the fell enemies of the health of the people. The Government were, no doubt, spending large amounts on hospitals and medicines but the protection of public health depended not on the number of hospitals or doctors or the amount spent on medicines but on the money spent for finding out the causes of, and remedies for eradicating, the several diseases. In England and other civilised countries, large amounts were being spent on the latter item. Many of the mortal diseases prevalent in the State were those which could be easily prevented. Greater attention should therefore be paid to the prevention of such diseases and the consequent protection of health. The Child Welfare Movement recently started in the State was a step in the right direction, but it

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